

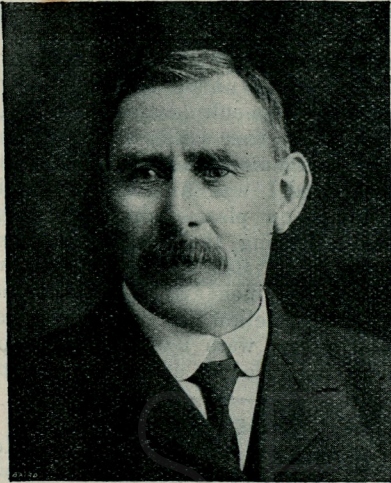
# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

MARCH, 1911.

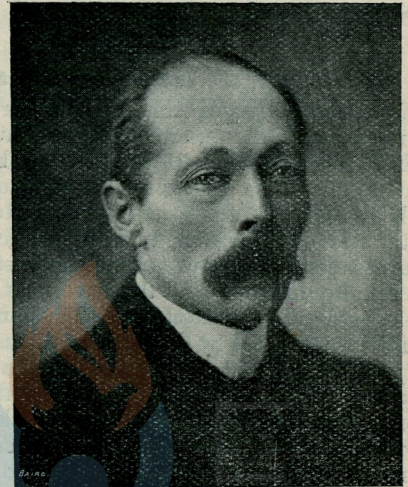
## Churchwardens of Seagoe, 1910-11.

**T**HE position of Churchwarden is a very important one. It is moreover a very ancient office in the Church, as our readers will gather from the list of former Churchwardens of Seagoe at present appearing from month to month in our Old Seagoe Notes. The list of Churchwardens in this Parish is practically complete from the year 1690, but it, of course, extended far beyond that, only that the registers of a previous date are not in existence. This month we present our

readers with portraits of the two Parishioners who were chosen and elected to the office at Easter, 1910. The Rector's Churchwarden, Mr. Charles Collins, of Edenderry, comes of an old and highly respected family. The name of Collins first appears in the Seagoe Register in the year 1722 (see old Seagoe Notes). Mr. Collins' father, the late Mr. James Collins, of Kernan, was for many years a member of the Select Vestry. The People's Churchwarden, Mr. Thomas Reid, of Lower Sea-



MR. CHARLES COLLINS,  
Rector's Churchwarden.



MR. THOMAS REID,  
People's Churchwarden.

goe, also represents a family that has been associated with Seagoe Parish for many years. The Reids have been resident in Tarson for generations. The first occurrence of the name in the extant Register, is in the year 1698 (see old Seagoe Notes). Mr. Reid's father, the late Mr. Robert Reid, acted as Rector's Churchwarden in 1856-57, and was reappointed at least four times in later years. In the records for 1856 there is an interesting coincidence, the election of Mr. Robert Reid as Rector's Churchwarden is entered in the minutes and the first signature after that of the Rev. J. A. Beers, who presided, is that of Mr. James Collins. After a lapse of more than half a century the sons are continuing the good work for the Church and Parish of Seagoe in which their fathers engaged.

## Special Lent Services.

On the Wednesdays in Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 1st, there will be special Lent Services in the Parish Church and the following special Preachers have been arranged:—

- March 1st—Rev. A. J. Murray,  
„ 8th—Rev. F. J. Halahan.  
„ 15th—Rev. T. W. E. Drury,  
„ 22nd—Rev. J. Sides.

On Sunday evenings in Lent Sermons will be

preached on the subject of "Social Evils." as follows:—

- March 5th. "Intemperance."  
„ "The Drink Traffic."  
„ 12th.—"Betting and Gambling."  
„ 19th.—"Untruthfulness."

[Sunday, March 26th, being everywhere observed as the 300th Anniversary of the publication of the Authorised Version of the Bible, Special Sermons will be preached on that subject in Seagoe Church. At Morning Prayer on "How to Read the Bible," and at Evening Prayer on "How we got our Bible."]

- April 2nd—"Non-Churchgoing."  
„ 9th—"Sunday Observance."



**Parish Register for February.****BAPTISMS.**

"From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures."

- Feb. 4th.—John, son of Samuel and Mary Gracey.  
 " " Albert Andrew, son of Albert and Jemima Matchett.  
 " " Sidney, son of Robert James and Jessie Fitzpatrick Becket.

**Offertories for February.**

Sundays—Morning, £4 16s 4d; Evening, £2 6s 4d.  
 Week-days, 13s 2d.

**Robbery at Seagoe Church.**

We regret to record that some miscreant, as yet unknown, forcibly entered Seagoe Church on the night of Tuesday, Feb. 21st. It was a bright moonlight night. The footprints of the intruder were easily recognised along the path. He broke the Vestry window, unfastened the inner latch, and then set about his sacrilegious work. The Vestry furniture was roughly handled, and the coverings of the Holy Table were sadly disarranged. The handsome brass Almsdish, presented by Dean Dawson, was taken from the press in the Vestry. As soon as the robbery was discovered the Rector informed Sergeant Long who at once with his usual energy set to work to discover the thief. On Wednesday night word came that the Almsdish had been found by a pedlar at Lambeg, near Lisburn, strange to say, immediately opposite the gate of Lambeg Rectory. The man said his wife had seen it on the bank behind the hedge where it had apparently been thrown by the thief. It would have been impossible to have disposed of the Brass Dish as there was an inscription on the back of it. The Rector, with Sergeant Long, went to Lisburn the next day and identified the plate. On the following Sunday morning at the early celebration the Rector re-dedicated the plate and restored it to its former uses.

The ancient Silver Communion Plate is always kept locked up in the Vestry Safe, and the collection from the previous Sunday evening Service was also locked up. A small sum of money in a missionary box was, strange to say, overlooked by the thief.

The crime was clearly perpetrated by a tramp, and it affords one more reason why these social pests who infest our roads and refuse to work, should be locked up in a House of Detention and made to work for their own support. We hope that none of our people will give any money or food to tramps. It only encourages them to pursue their evil life.

**Item.**

Mr. Christopher Boyle, of Drumshambo, Co. Leitrim, is acting as assistant Teacher in Seagoe National School. Mr. Boyle has been trained at Kildare Place Training College.

**Band of Hope.**

The usual monthly meeting of this organisation was held in Edenderry, on February 3rd, when a varied and interesting programme was presented. Before adverting to this we would like to call attention to the gratifying sight which all beheld in the initial stage of the programme, when a very large number of youthful members received their pledge cards. We trust that all will remember the sacredness of their vow against the use of intoxicants. Turning from this to the programme proper, we may say that seldom has a higher level been reached and maintained all through the entertainment. Many of our old helpers, under Mr. Chambers' able tuition, had prepared songs and choruses which they rendered most effectively. In addition to these we enjoyed recitations, and a dialogue which reflected credit on those who learned them under Mr. R. T. Montgomery's direction. The culminating scene of the evening was a short wax-works display, kindly arranged by Mr. Montgomery and a band of willing assistants. Each model was used as a "horrible example" to impress on plastic minds the dangers of intemperance. During the evening a rousing address was delivered by Rev F. J. Halahan, who dealt with the most prominent evil effects of alcoholic excess. After the benediction had been pronounced, many additional names were handed in by those desirous of receiving pledge cards at the next meeting.

**Bible Class Socials.**

On Tuesday, February 7th, the Annual Men's Social was held in Seagoe School. The Tables were laid for 200 and close on that number were present. All the men's classes were well represented, and a good spirit of Christian fellowship pervaded the gathering. After a substantial tea an interesting Programme of Music and Speeches began. The Rector presided, and after a short address, called on Mr. D. Murray for a Song. Mr. Gilbert Price followed with a recitation, and then the Rev. F. W. Austin gave a stirring address on "True Christian Manliness." Mr. Gilbert Price again recited a fine Temperance piece, and the Chairman asked Mr. John Gray, R.M., to say a few words to the men. We were all delighted to hear Mr. Gray and his words fell on very attentive ears. He especially warned the men against the evil of gambling, and told some of his experiences of the evils wrought by strong drink and impurity.

We wish we had space to print here the Address to the Rev. W. R. Crichton which accompanied the Presentation to him of a handsome Dressing Case by the members of his Men's Class. The address was read by Mr. Wolsey Atkinson. Mr. Crichton replied expressing his gratitude to the members of the class for their kindness. The Medals, Special Certificates, and Prizes were then distributed. The chief prize-winners were Thomas McCrory, Isaiah Shanks, and Thomas Best. Fifteen Bible Class men received Special Certificates for not having missed a class during the year.



### **Congratulations.**

We heartily congratulate Messrs. McGredy on the honour conferred upon them and Portadown by King George V. in their appointment as Seedsmen and Florists to the Royal Family. The honour is well deserved.

### **Edenderry v Seagoe.**

A little rivalry between different parts of the Parish is very wholesome. On Thursday, March 6th, Edenderry meets Seagoe in a Physical Culture Competition in the Parochial Hall. The Edenderry team is being trained by Mr. R. T. Montgomery, and the Seagoe team by Mr. T. Killops.

### **Lecture by Rev. W. T. Grey.**

The Lecture on Japan delivered by Rev. W. T. Grey, in Edenderry Hall, on February 23rd, was most interesting. There was a large attendance and the views shown gave a realistic picture of life in the Far East. Mr Grey was heartily welcomed and a warm vote of thanks to him was proposed by the Rev. Chancellor Hobson, and seconded by the Rev. W. J. Macaulay.

### **Concert at Carne.**

A most successful concert, organised by Mr. D. Murray, took place in Carne Church Hall, on Thursday, February 2nd. The Hall was crowded. The programme was unusually good, and a party of singers from Portadown performed a number of items. The closing piece by Messrs S. Currie, Binks, and Grimason, was the most amusing thing seen in Seagoe for many a day. Everyone was delighted with the entertainment.

### **Girls' Bible Class Social.**

This important annual event took place on Monday, February 20th, at 7.30 p.m., in Seagoe School. There was a splendid attendance of members who seemed greatly to enjoy the gathering. After tea all present assembled in the large schoolroom. The Rector occupied the chair, and gave a short address on Bible-Class Work. A trio was sung by Messrs D. & H. Murray, and S. R. Chambers. The Rev S. P. Mitchell, Rector of St. Nicholas's Church, Belfast, spoke some straight and earnest words basing his remarks on the three words "Girls'—Friendly—Society." An interesting feature of the evening was the presentation of a handsome Carriage Clock to Mr Chambers, the teacher of the Seagoe Girls' Bible Class. Mr. Chambers expressed his sincere thanks for the present which had come to him as a complete surprise. A fine address was given by Mrs. Patterson, of Ardmore, on "The True Friend." The distribution of Special Certificates and Prizes followed. Miss Armstrong, who takes such interest in the Edenderry Class, kindly distributed the Prizes. Miss M. Smith was awarded a Special Prize by Miss Armstrong for only having missed one Sunday (and that through illness) during five years. The Rev R. D. Patterson, and the Rev. F. J. Halahan having spoken briefly, a very pleasant and profitable evening was brought to a close.

### **S.N.S.**

Every school should have its colours and it has been decided that Red, White, and Blue, are for the future to be the colours of Seagoe School. Neat caps for the boys of the school containing the three colours are being made, and each cap will have a handsome monogram made from the letters S.N.S. (Seagoe National School) just above the peak in front. Small silver brooches with the same monogram are being made for the girls of the school, and will soon be ready. They will also receive a small piece of red white and blue ribbon. Of course none of the children need wear the cap or brooch unless they like but from the enthusiasm with which the children received the Manager's announcement, we believe there will be a tremendous demand for them.

### **Diary for March.**

- MARCH 4th, **JUMBLE SALE**, Edenderry Hall, 3 to 9. Great Bargains. Admission 2d.
- " 6th, **PUBLIC LECTURE on PALESTINE**, with Limelight Views, in Edenderry Hall. Open to all members of Bible Classes. Admission free. Collection for expenses.
- " 9th **COMMUNICANTS' CLASS**—Edenderry Hall at 8. Subject: "The First Exhortation." All Communicants invited.
- " 13th, **CHOIR MONTHLY SOCIAL**, and Practice in Seagoe School at 8.
- " 17th, **St. Patrick's Day—ENTHRONEMENT** of the Lord Primate in Armagh Cathedral. Special train leaves Belfast at 12.55. We hope some of our Seagoe people will try to attend this interesting ceremony.
- " 20th, **Public Lecture** in Edenderry Hall at 8, by the Rev. T. S. Hall, B.D., Rector of Upper Falls Church, Belfast, on **ZENANA MEDICAL MISSIONS**. Admission free. Limelight Views.
- " 21st, **GYMNASTIC ENTERTAINMENT** by Seagoe P.C. Team, in Carne Church Hall at 8. Admission 3d.
- " 24th, **C.M.S. accounts close**.
- " 26th, **BIBLE SUNDAY**.
- " 28th, **DIOCESAN SYNOD** in Belfast to elect New Bishop. Seagoe sends four Synodsmen to this most important gathering.

### **Prize Distributions.**

The annual distribution of Sunday School Prizes took place in **DRUMGOR**, on Monday, February 6th. Tea was on the tables at 7.30 and the Hall was crowded with the pupils and their friends. The Rector presided. After a splendid tea, provided most generously by Mr Robert Gracey, M.S.V



(member Select Vestry), an excellent programme was performed; the children from Balteagh School kindly providing some most interesting items. The prizes were then distributed and after a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Gracey a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close. We are very grateful to Mr Knox, of Lurgan, for his kind present of oranges for the children.

On Monday, February 13th, Levaghery Social was held. The room was crowded as it always is on such occasions. After tea the chair was taken by the Rector, and an attractive programme of music and recitations was performed. A unique feature in connection with Levaghery Sunday School this year was that every child succeeded in winning an attendance prize. We congratulate Levaghery on its distinguished success. We thank Mr and Mrs Collins for kindly supplying the tea and sugar used at the Social, and Mr and Mrs M'Dowell for a welcome gift of apples.

### Old Seagoe Notes.

**Families of Collins and Reid.**—In connection with the insertion in this number of the Magazine of the Portraits of our present Churchwardens, Messrs. Collins and Reid, we give here the first occurrence of the names from the Registers;—

Anne, daughter of James Collins and Mary his wife, was baptized, Fryday Innocents Day, the 28th of December, 1722.

1698—September 18th, John, son of John and Mary Reed, was baptized.

**Robbery at Seagoe Church in 1896.**—The following note was inserted in the Parish Records by Dean Dawson:—

Wednesday, 23rd September, 1896.—On the afternoon of this day a burglary was discovered to have been perpetrated in the Vestry on Tuesday night or early on Wednesday morning. The safe was broken into and the sum of £6 2s in silver and copper was abstracted from the drawer of the safe. The safe also contained a box holding the Holy Communion Plate, this was taken out and opened but none of the plate was removed. The principal implement used was a large strong pick-axe which had been kept under the belfry stairs, and was used in opening graves in the Churchyard. How an entrance was effected has not yet been ascertained, but departure was effected through the Vestry door, which was found latched but unlocked.

[It is remarkable that this robbery took place on a Tuesday night, the same night as the recent robbery. The present safe was put into the vestry since 1896, and is very strong, otherwise the recent burglary might have had more serious results. The erection of iron bars on the Vestry windows should be undertaken without delay as a further protection.]

**Old Seagoe Songs.**—We are greatly obliged to an anonymous correspondent for kindly sending us another verse of the old Seagoe song on "Sloan Woolsey" which appeared in last month's issue. It

is the sixth verse of the song:—

The next morning early they were  
laid on the banks of the Bann,  
Where Dean Blacker's yeomen  
around them did stand;  
With poles on their shoulders,  
they bore them along,  
With the Dean at their head,  
they were singing the Psalms.

The song was sung all over Ulster and was well-known in the neighbourhood of Belfast some sixty or seventy years ago. We have not yet been able to find out who wrote the lines. Perhaps someone can inform us. It was evidently written by someone who lived in Seagoe Parish about 80 years ago. Other ballads were written by the same person of which a few fragments remain which we hope to print later.

Here is the first verse of another old song very popular in Seagoe some 70 years ago, and a favourite song of the late Mr. John Walker, Clerk of Seagoe. It is called "Jockie to the Fair."

'Twas on a summer morn in May,  
When nature painted all things gay,  
Taught birds to sing, and lambs to play,  
And decked the meadows fair.  
His Sunday-coat the youth put on,  
For Jessie had vowed away to run,  
With Jockie to the Fair,  
And Flora's garment round him hung,  
That shepherds used to wear.

**Curfew in Seagoe.**—At a Vestry held in the Parish Church of Seagoe, on Easter Tuesday, April 2nd, 1782, it was decided to give Mary Porter, the Sextoness of Seagoe, £1 8s 3d for ringing the Bell morning and evening, at six in ye morning, from ye 25th of March to ye 29th of September, and at eight in the winter, and at nine at night throughout the year.

**Churchwardens' Seat in Seagoe.**—In old days the Churchwardens of Seagoe had a special seat in the Church which they occupied during public worship. In the Vestry Minutes for April 2nd, 1782 (quoted above) one item of expense is—To repairing the Church and making a seat for the use of the Churchwardens, £5.

### Churchwardens of Seagoe (continued):—

- 1740—James Bradshaw, of Knocknamuckley.  
Richard Dynes, of Cros McCaghely.
- 1741—Mr. George Mathers, of Drumgor.  
Meredith Conn, of Upper Seagoe.
- 1742—William Timmins, of Knockmena.  
Solomon Stephenson, of Ardmore.
- 1743—Woolsey Mathers, of Levaghery.  
Mich. Abram, of Derryadd.
- 1744—Jas. Harrison, of Drumgask.  
Wm. Lutton, of Breagh.

[The above list is interesting as proving the extent of Seagoe Parish in old days when it included within its bounds the present Parishes of Knocknamuckley and Ardmore.]